

**Guidelines for the identification of children and young people (CYP)
who may be eligible for Continuing Health Care (CHC)**

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1. Glossary

NHS	National Health Service
GP	General Practitioner
CYP	Children and young people
CC	Continuing Care
CHC	Continuing Healthcare
ICB	Integrated Care Board
LA	Local Authority
DST	Decision Support Tool

2. Introduction

a) Purpose:

The purpose of these guidelines is to:

1. Ensure that young people aged between 14 and 18 years of age who are potentially eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare funding as an adult are identified early to enable timely assessment.

2. Ensure a smooth transition to adult services for young people reaching adulthood.
3. Ensure the process is standardised and equitable.

b) Scope

The scope of these guidelines includes all children and young people aged 14 years or over who may be eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare where Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated care Board are the responsible commissioner.

3. Determining the Responsible Commissioner

The general rule for determining responsibility for ICB-commissioned services. It is set out in paragraph 10 of “Who Pays – Determining which Commissioner is responsible for commissioning healthcare service and making payments to providers” (July 2022)

- Where a patient is registered on the list of NHS patients of a GP practice, the responsible commissioner will be the ICB with which that GP practice is associated.
- Where a patient is not registered with a GP practice, the responsible commissioner will be the ICB in whose geographic area the patient is “usually resident”.
- Where a patient is registered with a GP practice associated with ICB A but has then been accepted as a temporary resident by a practice associated with ICB B, the patient becomes the responsibility of ICB B for that period of temporary residence.

In the case of a looked after child:

- From 1 July 2022, in relation to transition to adult care, placements in residential education establishments (special schools, for instance) are to be treated in the same way as those in care homes, children’s homes and independent hospitals.
- So, if a child remains / is placed in a residential school at the point of turning 18, with a continuing care package which must include nursing, the originating ICB retains responsibility for paying the NHS contribution to that placement on an ongoing basis.
- The change has been made to recognise that young people do often remain in residential educational placements beyond the age of 18 –and to avoid

creating financial pressures for ICBs which simply happen to host such establishments.

4. Background

NHS Continuing Healthcare is a package of care for adults aged 18 or over which is arranged and funded solely by the NHS. To receive NHS Continuing Healthcare funding individuals, must be identified as having a 'primary health need'. The ICB is the decision maker.

Eligibility for children's continuing care does not pre-suppose eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare.

Entitlement to NHS Continuing Healthcare should initially be established using the decision-making process set out in the National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare. The health plans and other assessments and plans developed as part of the transition process will provide key evidence to be considered in the decision-making process. Any entitlement that is identified by means of these processes before a young person reaches adulthood will come into effect on their 18th birthday, subject to any change in their needs.

This process is set out in the [National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS funded Nursing Care \(Revised 2022\)](#). The National Framework is published by the Department of Health and Social Care and is underpinned by the [NHS Commissioning Board and Clinical Commissioning Groups \(Responsibilities and Standing Rules\) Regulations 2012](#) as amended by [The National Health Service Commissioning Board and Clinical Commissioning Groups \(Responsibilities and Standing Rules\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#)

Every child or young person with a package of continuing care who is approaching adulthood should have a multi-agency plan for an active transition process to adult or universal health services or to a more appropriate specialised or NHS Continuing Healthcare pathway.

Once a young person reaches the age of 18, they are no longer eligible for continuing care for children, but may be eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare, which is subject to legislation and specific guidance. It is important that young people and their families are helped to understand this and its implications right from the start of transition planning. There should be a single key contact for families of a young person approaching transition.

Future entitlement to adult NHS continuing healthcare should be clarified as early as possible in the transition planning process, especially if the young person's needs are likely to remain at a similar level until adulthood, and this

should be accomplished by undertaking an initial screening for NHS continuing healthcare at a suitable point when aged 16-17.

In summary:

At **14** years of age, the young person should be brought to the attention of the ICB as likely to need an assessment for NHS Continuing Healthcare.

At **16 -17** years of age, screening for NHS Continuing Healthcare should be undertaken using the adult screening tool, and an agreement in principle whether the young person has a primary health need and is therefore likely to be eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare.

At **18** years of age, full transition to adult NHS Continuing Healthcare or to universal and specialist health services should have been made, except in instances where this is not appropriate.

Children's services should identify those young people for whom it is likely that adult NHS Continuing Healthcare will be necessary and should notify whichever ICB will have responsibility for them as adults. This should occur when a young person reaches the age of 14.

This should be followed up by a formal referral at 16 for screening to the adult NHS Continuing Healthcare team at the relevant ICB.

Usually when the young person is in their 17th year, eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare should be determined in principle by the relevant ICB, so that, wherever applicable, effective packages of care can be commissioned in time for the individual's 18th birthday (or later, if it is agreed that it is more appropriate for responsibility to be transferred then). To do this staff from adult services (who are familiar with the National Framework) will need to be involved in both the assessment and care planning to ensure smooth transition to adult services. If needs are likely to change, it may be appropriate to make a provisional decision, and then to recheck it by repeating the process as adulthood approaches.

There are a range of resources to support good practice in relation to transition for young people with complex health needs or disabilities. All transition planning for young people should take full account of the approaches set out in these documents.

These documents set out below:

- The [NICE quality standard QS140](#) Transition from children to adults' services sets out some fundamental principles of assuring an effective transition.

- [Transition: moving on well](#) sets out good practice for health professionals and their partners in transition planning for young people with complex health needs or disabilities.
- [A Quick Guide: Commissioning for transition to adult services for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\)](#) explains how all relevant services should work together with a young person to identify how they can best support that person to achieve their desired outcomes.

All Professionals, caring for or involved in arranging care for a young person who may be eligible for NHS CHC, have a duty to be aware of NHS Continuing Healthcare and explore what support the young person may require from their eighteenth birthday.

This may include young people who are not eligible for Children and Young People's Continuing Care as well as young people who are eligible and can be explored with professionals who work with the young person and family. This should be managed in a collaborative manner, whilst preparing for adulthood in line with the SEND legislation, part 3 of The Children and Families Act 2014 and the further guidance set out in chapter eight of the SEND Code of practice 2015 - [SEND Code of Practice January 2015.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#). The local authority should have systems for aligning the process of transition with preparing for adulthood and their Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) processes for children and young people of statutory school age who are in need of ongoing education [SEND Code of Practice January 2015.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#).

Consideration should be given to whether the young person is potentially eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare and therefore requires a checklist to be completed.

The public information leaflet should be shared with young people and their families, whilst initiating discussions. [Public Information Leaflet: NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Easy read- <https://teesvalleyccg.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2019/02/CHC-Easy-Read-1.pdf>

Not all young people will be eligible for NHS CHC, therefore discussions with the young person and their family should aim to set realistic expectations from the start.

Professionals need to be aware of Continuing Care and Continuing Healthcare and how to identify children and young people who may be potentially eligible, including how to make a referral for consideration and completion of a CHC screening checklist.

These professionals could include, but are not limited to:

- Continuing Care teams
- Complex Care Matrons
- Specialist Physiotherapists / Occupational Therapists/ Allied Health Professionals
- Transition lead nurses
- Consultant Physicians
- Consultant Nurses
- Children's community nursing teams
- Children and adolescent mental health services
- Children and young people's mental health services
- Local Authority staff
- Specialist school nursing staff

Professionals who work with the young person might be asked for information to contribute to the checklist, or to an assessment and completion of a decision support tool (DST) if the young person has needs that meet the CHC positive checklist threshold. Responsibility for completing the CHC checklist may vary locally, and professionals should seek advice, where required from the ICB Place All Age Continuing Care Team.

Consenting processes should be completed prior to completion of the checklist.

The young person and their family should be involved in the completion of the CHC checklist, if they wish.

The completed CHC checklist should be submitted to the appropriate ICB.

Young People and their families may approach professionals to request consideration of eligibility for NHS CHC and this should be supported.

5. ICB Contact Details

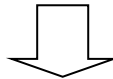
All Age Continuing Care - Locality team contacts for referrals.

Locality Team	Phone	Email	Postal Address
Cheshire East	01244 385063	cheshire.chc-cc@nhs.net	Bevan House, Barony Court, Nantwich, CW5 5RD
Cheshire West	01244 385063	cheshire.chc-cc@nhs.net	1829 Building, Countess of Chester Health Park, Liverpool Road, Chester, CH2 1HJ
Halton	01925 303130	cmicb-war.chcadmin@nhs.net	No 1 Lakeside, 920 Centre Park, Warrington, WA1 1QY
Knowsley	0151 244 4126	cmicb-kn.chcteam@nhs.net	Nutgrove villa, Westmorland Rd, Huyton, Liverpool L36 6GA
Liverpool MLCSU: Nursing Homes	0151 459 9444	mlcsu.care@nhs.net	Regatta Place, Summers Road, Brunswick Business Park, L3 4BL
Liverpool MCFT: Residential Home, SLS, Own Home	0151 295 3901	merseycarechc.team@nhs.net	V7 Kings Business Park Prescot Liverpool L34 1PJ
South Sefton, Southport & Formby MLCSU: Nursing Homes	0151 459 9444	mlcsu.care@nhs.net	Regatta Place, Summers Road, Brunswick Business Park, L3 4BL
South Sefton, Southport & Formby MCFT: Residential Homes, SLS, Own Home	0151 295 3901	merseycarechc.team@nhs.net	V7 Kings Business Park Prescot Liverpool L34 1PJ
St Helens	01744 675260	CHCTeam@sthelens.gov.uk	Forster House Waterside, St

			Helens WA9 1UB
Warrington	01925 303130	cmicb-war.chcadmin@nhs.net	No 1 Lakeside, 920 Centre Park, Warrington, WA1 1QY
Wirral	0151 488 7458	cmicb- wi.wirralcctadmin@nhs.net	The Stein Centre, Derby Road, Birkenhead, Wirral CH42 7HB

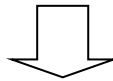
6. Pathway for identification of Young People who may be eligible for Continuing Health Care

Professional identifies a young person aged 14 or over who may be eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare. Responsible ICB All Age Continuing Care Team informed.



16 -17 years of age, information shared with Young Person and family and consent gained.

Screening for NHS Continuing Healthcare should be undertaken using the adult screening tool, and an agreement in principle whether the young person has a primary health need and is therefore likely to be eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare.



At **18** years of age, full transition to adult NHS Continuing Healthcare or to universal and specialist health services should have been made, except in instances where this is not appropriate. Clear rationale should be shared with all involved.